

#37: Thrown from – Inspection #1120402

A **76 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he was thrown from the back of a garbage truck while collecting trash. On the day of the incident, the victim was riding on the driver's side rear step of the garbage truck while picking up trash in a subdivision. The truck traveled over a gravel depression in the road where a water line had been replaced causing the truck to rock side to side. The rocking motion caused the victim to be thrown from the truck falling backwards and striking his head on the ground. The victim passed away later that day at the hospital. Employees stated they were aware of the safety rules when riding on the back of a garbage truck, but during the investigation, were viewed riding on the back of a garbage truck at speeds higher than 10 mph, and distances greater than 2/10ths of a mile.

Violation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

Violation 1 Item 1

TCA 50-3-105(1)	<p>Each employer did not furnish to each of its employees conditions of employment and a place of employment free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious injury or harm to its employees were exposed to physical harm such as a fall hazard. The employer failed to provide employees with the necessary safety training required before operating and working on a sanitation truck; and the employer failed to protect employees from the recognized hazards associated with mobile refuse-collection equipment. This hazard was most recent documented on two (2) recent occasions in Scotts Hill TN: a) On December 2, 2015, a public works employee was fatally injured when he fell from the rear steps of the sanitation truck as it was traveling between trash pick-ups.</p> <p>b) On January 28, 2016, public works employees were observed riding on the rear of the garbage truck at speeds over 10 mph and distances farther than 0.2 miles. Among other methods, one feasible and acceptable abatement method is to follow the owner's manual operating instructions or ANSI Z245.1-1992 sections 6.1.a-6.1.1, 6.2.1, and 6.2.4 that set safe operating guidelines and equipment usage which include: a) Providing instruction and training to employees in the safe methods of work before assigning them to operate or work around a sanitation truck; and b) ensuring that no person ride on the steps when the sanitation truck travels more than 0.2 miles between pick-ups and/or when the vehicle is traveling more than 10 mph.</p>
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Violation 1 Item 2

TDLWD Rule 0800-01-03-.03(27)(b)1	The log of all recordable work-related injuries and illnesses, OSHA Form 300 or equivalent, was not completed in the detail as required by the rule. On 1/28/16, the OSHA 300 log was not filled out correctly in accordance with the rule in the following two instances: a)The numbers were not totaled and placed at the bottom of the page; and b) The employer's name, address and year of report were not filled out.
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Violation 1 Item 3

TDLWD Rule 0800-01-03-.05(1)(a)1	Within eight (8) hours after the death of any employee as a result of a work-related incident, the employer did not report the fatality to the TOSHA Division of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. On 12/02/15, a workplace fatality was not reported to the TOSHA Division of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development within 8 hours of the incident.
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Photo 1 of 1 – Photo of the garbage truck and employees riding on the rear step.